

ABSTRACT

The disclosure details the implementation of an apparatus, method, and system for a tunneling client access point (TCAP). The disclosure teaches a highly secure, portable, power efficient storage and data processing mechanism. The TCAP “tunnels” data through an access terminal (AT). The data may be tunneled through the AT’s input/output facilities. In one example embodiment, the TCAP has no user input or output peripherals. The TCAP connects to an access terminal and a user employs the AT’s user input peripherals for input, and views the TCAPs activities on the AT’s display. This enables the user to observe data stored on the TCAP without it being resident on the AT, which can be useful to maintain higher levels of data security. Also, the TCAP may tunnel data through an AT across a communications network to access remote servers without requiring its own more complicated set of peripherals and I/O. One aspect of the disclosure teaches an elegant user interface for allowing a user to execute and access data from almost any access terminal. The disclosure teaches how to allow users to employ traditional large user interfaces that users are already comfortable with on a device that offers greater portability, greater memory footprints, lower power consumption, and greater data security. As such, the disclosed tunneling client access point is very easy to use; at most it requires the user to simply plug the device into any existing and available desktop or laptop computer, through which, the TCAP can make use of a traditional user interface and peripherals. The disclosure also teaches a TCAP server (TCAPS). The TCAPS extends the storage and processing capacities and capabilities of TCAPs. Also, by providing the equivalent of a plug-n-play virtual private

22 network (VPN), the disclosure teaches how the TCAP provides for certain kinds of accessing
23 of remote data in an easy and secure manner. The result and manner in which this is
24 achieved, yields the generation of a never before accessible, novel, non-obvious, yet
25 extremely useful portable computing and storage device.